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CHOCOLATES

Vol. 11. No. 12.

54 Renwick Street, Marrickville. — Tel.: 55-6877

April 5, 1968.

"KAMIKAZE" KAMAMOTO IS JAPAN'S HOPE FOR FINAL TIE

— By LOU GAUTIER —

The stage is set for a tremendous finale to Japan's brief Australian tour at Adelaide's Norwood Oval under floodlights tonight (Thursday).

The Japanese have their backs to the wall and must win to even the three-match series against Australia.

Their world class centre-forward, the tall, elegant accomplished Kamamoto will again carry Japan's hopes

for a victory which would enable them to return home with a more respectable record. (Japan, incidentally, will play in Hong Kong next Sunday, on their way home.)

The Australians, however, have different ideas and an

even greater incentive to make it two wins in a row. If they emerge undefeated against Japan it will work wonders for their morale and confidence when both countries meet again in the very near future in the World

Cup.

A win might also, though we wouldn't bet on it, spur the Australian Federation into carrying out, at long last, their oft-discussed plans for a thorough, well planned national team policy.

Coach Joe Vlasits is unlikely to make any change to last Sunday's victorious Australian team, which is almost certain to line up thus: Corry; Keith, Ackerley; Westwater, Schaefer, Blue; Vojtek, McColl, Scheinflug, Baartz, Blitz.

Japan, on the other hand, are bound to make many changes and could revert to almost the same side which played in Sydney.

Coach Okano's biggest problem will be to counter Australia's close marking of Kamamoto, the key player without whose promptings they become astonishingly vulnerable.

After watching Australia's splendid 3-1 Melbourne victory I am confident they can win again.



Ray Baartz and a Japanese defender staging an aerial duel.



A Japanese defender shielding the ball from Archie Blue in the Sydney international.

Munich tour afoot but don't bet on it

Mystery, secrecy and dithering surround the ASF's last minute attempt to secure an overseas team for a tour of Australia.

According to the latest information, the ASF has "tentatively" agreed to bring out here "Munich" from West Germany.

It is not known which "Munich" it is as the Bavarian capital has two Bundesliga teams: Bayern Munchen (running about fourth) and Munchen 1860 (running near last).

Bayern Munchen has by far the classier team, including one of Europe's greatest players, Franz Beckenbauer.

The Germans are supposed to have accepted to arrive here about May 27 or 28 and

play throughout June.

Obviously the ASF is disregarding the fact that in June they will stage in Sydney the "Rugby League World Cup".

Although we know it's a joke, with only four countries taking part, the PUBLIC doesn't know it, and never will be told by the daily press, boosting that code — and their circulation — with the most fantastic gimmicks imaginable.

Last year when ASF secretary Ian McAndrew went to Europe, he emphasised that he wanted a touring

team for July; now, it seems, we will have one in June.

If we do have one, of course. For so far we have heard the names of Real Madrid, Ferencvaros, Naples, Olaria of Brazil, Lazio and ADO of Holland mentioned in connection with a 1968 tour; only last Saturday a leading ASF official even suggested New Zealand as a "good drawcard".

So it's possible that you may add "Munich" to this illustrious list soon as one of the many teams we are not going to see in 1968.

— PAUL DEAN

OUR CRYSTAL BALL

This is the traditional time when we stick our neck out and make the bold prediction nobody should make.

This is when we try to forecast how the teams will finish in the NSW championship.

So, for what it's worth, here are our annual tips:

P. DEAN:

St. George
APIA
Hakoah
Prague
Pan Hellenic
Melita Eagles
Croatia
Yugal
Polonia
Canterbury
Manly
South Coast

L. GAUTIER:

APIA
Hakoah
St. George
Prague
Pan Hellenic
Croatia
Yugal
Polonia
Melita Eagles
South Coast
Canterbury
Manly

MARCEL NAGY:

Hakoah
St. George
APIA
Pan Hellenic
Prague
Croatia
Melita Eagles
Yugal
South Coast
Polonia
Canterbury
Manly

KEITH GILMOUR:

APIA
St. George
Hakoah
Pan Hellenic
Prague
Croatia
Canterbury
South Coast
Manly
Melita Eagles
Yugal
Polonia

CHARLES SPITERI:

St. George
Hakoah
Prague
APIA
Pan Hellenic
Yugal
Croatia
Melita Eagles
Canterbury
Polonia
Manly
South Coast

ALAN SPEERS:

Hakoah
Prague
St. George
Pan Hellenic
APIA
Croatia
Canterbury
Yugal
South Coast
Manly
Melita Eagles
Polonia

Turn to Pages 3 and 5
for the best — ever
coverage of the Sydney
competition kick-off

— EDITORIAL — WANTING SKILL ISN'T ENOUGH

The pros and cons of Japan's visit will be discussed for some time; people will argue which team should have won which match and why.

But those who can and do watch a match of soccer intelligently and without chauvinism must admit that Japan are forging ahead of us in the art and craft of soccer.

This is a painful fact: it will not please those who WANT Australia to be superior. Wanting it won't get us there; we have to work for it. They did.

And this is a fact even though we beat them 3-1 in Melbourne; even if we beat them again in Adelaide.

In what respect is Japan ahead of us? Their ball-handling is superior; not in the Brazilian class but certainly above our standards.

Their tactical intelligence and discipline are superior.

The Japanese have learned the basic rule of soccer which we haven't: you MUST play off the ball, MUST run into position after the pass, MUST let the ball do the running for you.

Japan is in our group for the World Cup elimination; if we want to at least win our group, we have to beat them in Australia and draw with them in Tokyo.

This we can do, but only if we change our attitude to our national team.

As long as an inexperienced sub-committee can restrict the team manager and coach to 16 players; as long as they are "generously" given three days to prepare for an international, we remain in the Cramerian stone-age.

So we had better decide now what shall it be: a proper challenge with thorough preparation or just another haphazard affair where not skill and tactical discipline but sheer enthusiasm will again be our only weapon.

Which, by the way, is proving painfully inadequate even against a team like Japan which until recently was a complete soccer non-entity.

Australia Cup

PRAGUE, HAKOAH GET THROUGH

Prague (Sydney) and Hakoah (Melbourne) won their preliminary Australia Cup matches last weekend.

Prague thrashed Latrobe of Queensland 6-0, but Hakoah only scraped home 1-0 against Tasmania's Launceston United.

Our reports on the two matches:

Prague v. Latrobe 6-0

In a lopsided encounter at the Marks Field, the Sydney-siders gave their opponents a soccer lesson and at no time did the Queenslanders pose a threat to the Prague goal.

The visitors' goalie, Martin Coe must take the blame for at least three of the goals, but even with a better custodian, Prague would have won convincingly.

Terry Thorne scored a hat-trick and gave a splendid performance of positional play.

The Prague attack — against the weakest of oppositions, worked like a precision machine with perfect passes and quick reflexes on the ball and sharp-shooting when within striking distance.

Latrobe, on the other hand, gave a dismal and disappointing performance, unbecoming of last season's Brisbane premiership winners.

Prague: King, Harcombe, Blacker, Zeman, Rootsey, Blanco; Armytage, Thorne, Manuel, Molnar, Hoggart.

Latrobe: Coe; Patruno, Winstone, Stewart, Walton, Webber; Buchanan, Welsby, Hicksman, Clemitson, Piróg (Darragh).

Scorers: Thorne 2 min., 34 min., 70 min.; Manuel 44 min.; Molnar 52 min.; Armytage 73 min.

Referee: G. Muir (Newcastle).

Crowd: 2,070.

— Charles Spiteri

Hakoah (Vic.) v. Launceston 1-0

The score was no reflection on the run of the game.

Hakoah, with 80 per cent of the play and countless gilt-edge chances of scoring, should have had the game well and truly wrapped up before they scored in the ninth minute instead of hanging on like grim death by a single goal to the finish.

Although Hakoah were minus Keith and Van Alphen on duty with the Australian team and were also without scoring inside-forward Jim Armstrong rumoured to be under suspension there was no excuse for their inept display and especially their shocking attempts to finish.

Launceston never gave up, and for a side playing their first competition game since the end of last season put on a gallant show.

Still they were outplayed except for a 10-minute spell in the closing stages, when with a bit more punch up front and a slice of luck they could have squared the game.

Hakoah: Henderson, Lapish, O'Neill, Murney, Stenhouse, Baker, Fry, Anderson (Jacobs) Petersen, Smith, Purdie.

Launceston: T. Bain, Kremerskothen, Donaldson, Neilson, Hackett, Smith, Witherford, Kendrick, S. Bain, Dracup, Van der Poels.

Scorer: Petersen.

Referee: D. Grant (South Australia).

Crowd: 650.

— Bob Low

SYDNEY CLUB PATROL

CORINTHIANS face immediate expulsion from the NSW Federation unless they give very firm assurances by Friday to clean up their staggering debts. Only to former coach, Frank Broome, they owe more than \$5,000, and Broome now in England has had the matter taken up by the English FA. Should Corinthians be expelled, the Federation may have to settle their debt.

LATROBE: the Queensland team, Prague eliminated on Sunday from the Australia Cup, have no home ground, train in a public park — and have no coach at all!

POLONIA last weekend bought Prague's speedy winger, VIC POVEY, for an undisclosed fee. He makes his debut against his former team at North Sydney Oval on Sunday.

Last Sunday **CROATIA** and **ST GEORGE** played a light-hearted 5-5 draw in a friendly match before the Prague v. Latrobe Australia Cup match.

Gladesville-Hornsby Inter-Suburban club has byes on May 12 and August 3 and is seeking suitable matches. Contact is Les Hill, 40-3261 (bus. hours). Pennant Hills Oval is available on the latter date.

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY has entered in the Gladesville-Hornsby competitions. Club officials are working hard to increase their playing strength, and expect to have a really good amateur club within two years.

C.H.S. officials have already received 21 country entries for the State Tasman Cup, an increase of six country high schools on 1967.

BERNIE HENSON, the Pan Hellenic defender, has appealed against his \$1,500 transfer tag. Henson is keen to join Melita Eagles.

South Coast's **JIM KELLY** and a couple of officials visited Newcastle last weekend for talks with Adamstown. The provincials are interested in the Rosebuds' Australian international halfback **RAY LLOYD**, whose transfer tag is a staggering \$6,000.

Frank Parsons and Brian Emery were guests of the NEPEAN Districts Association on Friday March 22, at a pre-season dinner, at the Capri, Kingswood. There is an increase of 37 teams in the district this season, and four teams have entered from North Katoomba. A special

General Meeting of the Nepean Referees Association will be held on Wednesday April 11 to discuss the future in relation to the dispute between the NSW referees.

Soccer is about to spread in the Catholic schools. The **WARRINGAH CONVENT SCHOOLS Sports Association** has just created a soccer section which has already 20 teams playing in three competitions which kick off on April 24. Teams from Catholic schools in Avalon, Dee Why, Mona Vale, Narrabeen and Forestville have joined. The officials in charge of the soccer section are John Senior and Brian Mullock who can be contacted at 913-9477 and 40-6674 respectively.

POLONIA beat Auburn 3-1 in a trial match last Sunday. Povey, Swoboda and Calphy were their scorers.

NSW Federation president JIM BAYUTTI leaves for a four-week purely business trip to Italy this weekend.

APIA beat Western Suburbs 2-1 in a trial match at Lambert Park last Sunday. At half-time the score was 0-0.

At Wentworth Park, **HAKOAH** beat Melita Eagles 3-1. Scores at half-time were 1-1.

Cheers galore to the ladies who took part in the exhibition match before the Prague-Latrobe game at Marks Field last Sunday. The **PRAGUE Ladies' team** beat Hume United Ladies 1-0 when Crystal Gay slammed the only goal of the game midway in the second-half.

Last Sunday Bass Hill RSL won the 1968 **NOVA SHIELD** for under-13 teams in the Bankstown district. Sixteen teams took part in this annual competition conducted by the Thistle club.

BANKSTOWN defeated **CANTERBURY** in all three grades in a trial fixture at the Bankstown Soccer Centre last Sunday. The Towns won the main game 3-0.

HANK EILERTS, the top Sydney referee, is now in Western Australia. He works for a big manufacturing firm in the interior, miles away from Perth.

South Sydney - Croatia won't be playing their **AUSTRALIA CUP** preliminary round match in Sydney. They'll travel to Canberra to play the local Juventus club on Easter Monday, April 15. The organisation of the Australia Cup is once again chaotic. The ASF office didn't even know as we went to press the name of the Canberra representative. This information was supplied by NSW secretary, Alden Brown, yet the series is supposed to be an ASF promotion.

None of the Sydney **TELEVISION** stations gave the result of the Australia v. Japan match in their Sunday news bulletins. The commercial radio stations, too, ignored the match.

Prague might like to know that **LATROBE** returned home not entirely enthusing about the reception they had received in Sydney. Between the time they left the airport on Saturday morning and after the match, no Prague official went near them, they claim.

RAY MARTIN, a Melita Eagles committeeman resigned last week. His resignation is in protest against the delay by other committee members for calling another General Meeting.

Last Saturday night, the ABC 10 p.m. news included no mention of the Australia-Japan soccer international, but gave all details of a match between a visiting district Rugby Union side from Fiji and Canberra, including advance notice of a Tuesday match in Cooma. Impartiality?

In Melbourne on Sunday

The Australian team played in their alternate **STRIP** of yellow shirts and white shorts last Sunday while the Japanese had an all-blue outfit.

The Victorian Federation came in for a lot of **CRITICISM** from spectators when they charged a minimum admission fee of \$2.00 for the outer terraces last Sunday, and \$2.50 for the grandstand area. In Sydney the charges were \$1.00 and \$2.00 respectively.

Referee **BOSKOVIC** came home to an unpleasant surprise last Sunday evening. His Adidas business van had received a nasty rear bump while stationed at the Airport parking lot during the day. A woman driver in a Holden lost control of the wheel and ploughed into four parked vehicles.

The seriously injured **JOHN WARREN** was a disconsolate, limping figure in Melbourne on Sunday. He flew home Sunday night after team-mate Manfred Schaefer had made all the necessary arrangements. Schaefer "nursed" his stricken skipper until the Sydney-bound Ansett-ANA jet took off.

The injured **ALAN MARNOCH** also flew back to Sydney on Sunday night. On the same flight was Archie Blue who had to fill in for his boss until Wednesday when he rejoined the Australian squad in Adelaide.

The FIFA flag flew at the main mast at both Sydney and Melbourne grounds. The series against Japan were recognised as "A" internationals by the world body.

Japanese coach, **OKANO**, is also the team's official interpreter. Besides English, he also speaks German fluently, having attended the Cologne Soccer Academy on two separate occasions.

— LOU GAUTIER

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Evening: Variety nite: Doug Burgess, Terry Scanlon and Johnny Devlin.

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Championship prognosis

TITLE RACE MAY BE THREE-WAY STRUGGLE

I am firmly convinced — as convinced as anybody can be about this uncertain business of football — that this year's premiership will be a three-way battle.

(What an awkward, meaningless word this "premiership"; we will refer to it as from now on as **CHAMPIONSHIP**, the name used all over the world.)

The three teams that I see battling it out for first place past the post are St. George, APIA and Hakoah.

Let me give my reasons. St. George, basically unchanged since last year, must perform at least as well as in 1967; if newcomers Schumann, Galambos and Duerr fit in, they could become the top dogs.

Another reason why I back them in this race is that they have an excellently constructed club, committee and prosperous social club behind them.

CORROSION

And this, in Sydney's rather unstable football life, is worth a few championship points.

APIA last year showed some signs of corrosion; a

few of their former key players slowed down, others lost their zing.

To rectify this, they decided upon plastic surgery, transplanting five highly rated Argentinos.

This should amply compensate them for the departure of Watkiss.

However, experience shows it takes time for overseas players to settle down and find their stride — especially from South America.

Although nobody doubts their ability, it may take them some months to hit top form and blend into the team — and during these months APIA's tight grip on the Sydney championship may slip somewhat.

HAKOAH this year are making yet another spirited bid to succeed in what they have been failing for 11 years: to finish on the top of the table.

On top of the 1967 signings (Baartz, Edmunds, Yaager Jones, Atoua), this season they have acquired Watkiss, Barnett, D. Keddie, Gardiner and have lost "only" their most effective wing half pair of Walsh and Duffy.

Their effort in team-building must soon show results and it would be a traumatic experience for their fans if they didn't finish very close to the top.

I have a feeling that **Prague** and **Pan Hellenic** will fight it out for the fourth place; somewhat behind the first

three but probably well ahead of the others.

Prague, in the capable hands of Venglos and Dr. Bujna, may become one of Sydney's most attractive teams.

In fact, they could surprise us all and forge higher than the slot I envisage for them.

UPS AND DOWNS

With their well organised defence, their effective and intelligent midfielders Blanco and Scheinflug and enterprising forward line, Prague can, on their day, lick any team in Sydney and take it poker-faced.

Pan Hellenic still don't impress me as a team capable of going through the 22 weeks of hard campaign without their almost traditional huge ups and downs.

I am still convinced that they should modify their style of football, perhaps by planting in their midfield a sea-

soned, shrewd tactician and distributor of the ball — the Campana, Zuckerman, Micic type.



R. BLANCO (Prague)

Yugal, Croatia and Melita, I believe, won't be very far from anyone another at the finish.

Yugal have some fine, accomplished players (Rafanelli,

Banicevic, Lalic, Alagic) who could pull them through well; Croatia have a tight, classy defence and Melita now have so many players at their disposal that surely they can mould something more than useful out of that.

KELLY'S TASK

Canterbury, apparently in some sort of domestic upheaval, are likely to be struggling and so are **Polonia** whose ageing team simply fails to radiate dynamism or optimism.

Manly and **South Coast Utd.** look, at the moment, the two weakest in the field.

Manly's only hope is that the enthusiasm of its all-amateur players and the solid backing of the district — largely moral — will be enough to perform a successful cliff-hanger.

South Coast, on their Ampol displays, are in dire need of new players.

Jim Kelly, a hard and successful taskmaster, certainly has a hard task on his hands; this may be the season when he gets his big chance to show his true mettle.

...OR SO THEY SAY

"Keith, Van Alphen, McCall and Votej are from Victoria."

(Telegraph, March 29)

"Scheinflug this season has regained his best form."

"His is the only new face in the Australian side which defeated **South Vietnam** 3-2 in the Vietnam National Day tournament final last year."

(Telegraph, March 29)

"The referee is Mr. V. Dobinson from Victoria..."

"Archie Blue has replaced Alan Westwater in the NSW team..."

(Bill Kadison over the loudspeaker at the Sportsground on March 30.)

"Allan Marnoch is not available at least until the third Test in Adelaide on Wednesday."

(Sunday Mirror, March 31)

"Japan were as good as **South Korea**, the toughest team we struck on the 1965 Asian tour."

(Sun. Telegraph, March 31)

"Of the 22 playing on the park yesterday, **not one**, on the form displayed, would be considered for the Olympic Games or the World Cup... in the 78th minute this great player Kunishige Kamamoto put the tourists ahead with an un-stoppable shot. There is no doubt that he is in world class."

(Hotspur, Sunday Mirror, March 31)

Junior comp.

kicks off

All junior district associations start their competitions on Saturday.

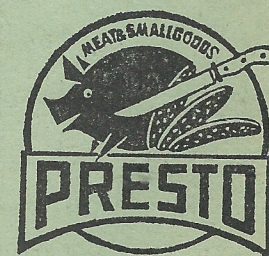
Ku-ring-gai, Bankstown, Gladesville, Manly, Western Suburbs, St. George and Sutherland have entered all three grades.

Granville, Nepean, Canterbury entered two, and Eastern Suburbs, Northern Suburbs and Southern Districts one each.

For the first time, all districts are represented.

Matches next Saturday will be played at Gore Hill, Scarborough Park, Moore Park, Arlington Park, McArthur Park, North Epping and Ku-ring-gai.

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FIRST DIVISION REFEREES

Manly v. Melita Eagles — K. Lockrey; St. George-Budapest v. SCU — N. Campbell; Pan Hellenic v. Croatia — H. Parsons; Polonia v. Prague — N. Jones; Yugal v. APIA — A. Boskovic; Canterbury v. Hakoah — L. Rae.

NEW COACHES FOR 5 CLUBS

Five teams in the Sydney First Division will start the season with new coaches — four out of 12 being roughly the European "average."

The "new faces" are:

● In Croatia former Yugoslav international star Ante Zanetic has taken over from Frank Hearn.

● In Pan Hellenic Bill Vrolyks has resigned under tremendous pressure and has been succeeded by Walter Tamandl who already had a stint with the Greek-sponsored team.

● In Canterbury Julius Polgar has quit and the post has not been filled on a permanent basis.

● In South Coast last year's coach Graham Barnett has departed for Hakoah as a mere player and has been succeeded by former coach Jim Kelly.

● In Hakoah Doug Holden has retired as a player and taken over the team as coach.

These clubs have retained their 1967 coach for the new season:

APIA (Mazzina); St. George (Hegyes); Prague (Venglos); Polonia (Azzopardi); Yugal (Dunaj); Melita (Vlasits); Manly (Adrikan).

SYDNEY CLUBS, never terribly keen on player-coaches, are showing a further tendency to get away from this rather amateurish concept in modern football.

Today only South Coast United have a player-coach in Jimmy Kelly as neither Venglos nor Dunaj intends to play.

The ethnic break-down of the 12 coaches is:

Hungarian: 3; English: 2; Yugoslav: 2; Argentinian, Austrian, Czechoslovakian and unknown one apiece.

Oddly, though not surprisingly, there is not one Australian born coach in the First Division; the last was Joe Marston with APIA.

However, the past season may serve as a guide.

In 1967 the 12 First Division clubs used a total of 226 players to achieve what they tried to achieve.

The smallest number was APIA's and Croatia's, 16 each and the largest Polonia's and Cumberland's 26.

Only 31 players appeared in all the 22 competition matches.

Once again, APIA and Croatia showed the greatest stability in producing six "evergreens."

Only St. George and Cumberland (now Auburn) failed to have one player who went through the whole season in their first team.

This is their list: **APIA:** Ackerley, Blue, Campbell, Watkiss, Hughes, Van Blerk.

Croatia: Corry, F. Cush, R. Cush, Lincoln, Snedden, Sloan.

Pan Hellenic: Johnston, McCulloch, Smith.

Hakoah: Baartz, Holden, Marnoch, Walsh.

Canterbury: Rinos, Romanos, Whitehead.

Prague: Zeman.

Polonia: Minol.

Yugal: Dunaj.

Melita: Cilia, Eaton, Mul-lan, Woods.

South Coast: Barnett, Salisbury.

Who is likely to make a repeat? Some are certain not to.

Watkiss, still plagued with a stubborn injury, will find it hard to go through the whole season for his new club while Campbell, Van Blerk and Hughes may cease to be permanent fixtures in the team now with the influx of the Argentinians.

Frank Cush is now recovering from a cartilage operation while his brother, Ray Cush, may have problems with his time off for

training, now that he is a Salisburi policeman.

The three Pan Hellenic evergreens stand a good chance of a repeat — though Johnston is again reportedly after a transfer.

In Hakoah Holden is now a coach while Walsh is back in Britain.

The three Canterbury musketeers may do a repeat but Zeman, with an abundance of good defenders, is not certain to be Prague's permanent stopper.

In the Coast Barnett has departed for Hakoah while

Salisbury is coaching Bal-gownie, so they are out of calculations.

Dunaj is unlikely to play this season while in Melita the veteran Cilia and Woods will be hard put to keep their places for the whole 22 rounds in the face of youthful challengers.

It is interesting to note that in 1967 the 12 teams used a total of 38 players who appeared only once in their first sides — more than three per team on an average.

— P.D.

Soccer stays in family

— By KEITH GILMOUR —

When Ian Burt goes in goal for Auburn under-14s and brother Rodney pulls on the inside-left shirt for St. Johns Auburn, a little bit of soccer history springs into action.

The Burt boys are fourth generation soccer players in Australia.

Their great-grandfather, Bill Baillie, is believed to be one of the pioneers of soccer in NSW.

He migrated to Australia in 1880 at the age of 18 on the ship "Austral" from Kilmarnock, Scotland.

On arrival, he joined the Railways at Clyde.

Out came the soccer ball, and Scottish and English migrants joined in for a game.

The ground was the old Clyde Oval, where Clyde Engineering is now.

Soon he had many of his Australian mates kicking the ball around.

It has been handed down through the family that this is how soccer started in NSW.

Bill Baillie played a prominent part in the game.

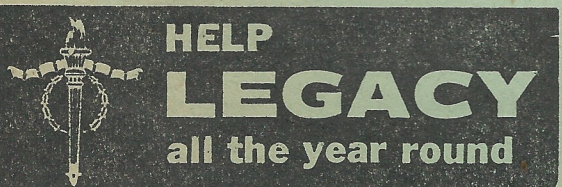
In 1884 and 1887 he was selected to captain NSW against Victoria, and his playing career extended until he was nearly 40.

He then turned to spread the round ball gospel amongst the youngsters of the Auburn and Granville areas.

His son, Will Baillie, also became a player of note.

Then his son-in-law, Bevan Burt, took up the game, playing for Auburn in the Sydney and District League and then in the Army, and later turning successfully to coaching.

Today his two sons, great-grandchildren of Bill Baillie, take to the soccer field, and still play in the same area as their ancestor.



Vlasits does it again!

SMART MOVE OUTWITS JAPAN IN MELBOURNE

— By LOU GAUTIER —

Lucky to snatch a 2-2 draw in the dying minutes against Japan last Saturday in Sydney, Australia staged a heartening reversal of form to beat the Japanese 3-1 at Melbourne's Olympic Park 24 hours later.

The Melbourne result may surprise Sydney fans, but Australia's win last Sunday was as clear-cut as the score indicates.

It took coach Joe Vlasits less than 24 hours to sum up Japan's strength and weaknesses, and to remedy his team's tactics accordingly.

Japan, clearly the better team in Sydney, were outplayed in Melbourne.

Australia on Sunday were 100 per cent better than in Sydney.

Attack and defence linked up much better, fewer passes went astray and there was much more purpose and method in their play, in sharp contrast to their Sydney display where plain old fashioned guts and determination alone enabled them to force a face-saving draw.

Westwater's role

One match was enough for Vlasits to recognize the vital role brilliant centre-forward Kamamoto fills in the Japanese side.

Last Sunday Kamamoto was neutralized for the entire match by Westwater, whose one and only task was to shadow Kamamoto wherever he roamed.

Westwater played out his obscure, selfless role to perfection, forever tackling and bustling the ace Japanese forward off the ball.

As a result, the entire Japanese structure of play collapsed, Kamamoto being continually deprived of the ball or stuck to as glue by Westwater.

Left to their own devices, the other Japanese forwards were all at sea and showed glaring weaknesses in their finish though some of their approach work was again eye-catching and fluent.

Australian goalie Corry on Sunday didn't have more than two dangerous shots to speak of, and was only beaten from a dead ball, when Japan opened the scoring in the 33rd minute from a remarkably executed free-kick which must have taken hours of practice to perfect.

Improved defence

Japan in Sydney displayed fascinating technical and tactical skill, accurate, delightful passing and a high degree of team-work.

The Australians, playing their first match since last November, were flat-footed, at times cumbersome, in comparison and often all at sea to counter their opponents' well-drilled 4-3-3.

On Sunday, despite a drastically reshuffled team, with Schaefer at stopper and Blue left-half, Australia allied their new traditional fighting spirit and courage with vastly improved team-work and purpose.

In Sydney Japan had dictated the pattern of the match despite Australia's territorial, though fruitless, domination.

In Melbourne, the boot was on the other foot. Australia grabbed the initiative straight from the kick-off and never looked like losing at any stage.

Their defence didn't slam the ball as in Sydney: they tried to get out of trouble with a neat pass instead, and most of the time succeeded.

Australia's spectacular improvement visibly shook the Japanese, who were entitled to feel confident about the outcome judging on Saturday's match.

Rejuvenated

The Australian attack, so feeble and disjointed in Sydney, was completely rejuvenated in Melbourne.

Baartz was back at his best and gave an outstanding 90-minute display, continually foraging, creating openings, shooting and fittingly capped off his best international display in Australia with a last-minute goal, one of the three headers scored at Olympic Park.

Vojtek, whose goal was a model of coolness and poise, though faced with a wall of players, revealed flashes of his reputed ball control and many of his dashes, especially when he cut infield, caused havoc in a Japanese defence often caught napping by Australia's new-found aggressiveness in attack.

Scheinflug, the linkman, was everywhere, bobbing up in the Australian goalmouth when required and storming the Japanese goal whenever opportunity beckoned.

His goal, the all-important equaliser in the 35th minute — a header from a typically curved Blitz corner-kick — was a case in point.

The whole Australian defence was first rate, Schaefer acquitting himself splendidly at stopper, Blue playing an attacking role and fullbacks Keith and Ackerley well on top of their wingers.

Will-to-win

Ackerley, the Australian captain in Warren's enforced absence, embodied the admirable energy and will-to-win of his team: continually shouting instructions in his inimitable fashion, he galvanized his team-mates into action.

The pattern of Sunday's match and the tactical and individual performances were so different from the previous day's encounter that those who saw the match in Sydney could hardly believe their eyes.

The Japanese were the first to admit after the match in Melbourne that Australia's improved form had startled and shaken them.

The Australian camp claimed, with some justification, that they had been caught by surprise in the first match where the Japanese upset their plans by not playing as they had expected.

"In Melbourne", said Vlasits, "we knew what we were up against, and planned accordingly".

Some excuses

There is no doubt that Westwater's vice-like grip on Kamamoto changed the course of the match, but the leg-weary Japanese may have some valid excuses for playing well below the form they showed in Sydney.

It was their second match in 24 hours after a long, eventful trip from Mexico barely 55 hours earlier, and they were forced to field a reshuffled team owing to fatigue and injuries.

Australia, however, were not at full-strength either, far from it, what with both stoppers, Van Alphen and Marnoch, skipper Warren and Abonyi out of action.

No credit can, nor must, be taken away from the Australians for their convincing 3-1 victory: the best team won.

In Sydney, Australia were lucky to hold the Japanese to a draw.

Japan's superior teamwork and their shining individuals — Katayama, Kamamoto, Kamata and Sugiyama — deserved a better fate at the Sports Ground than a draw which flattered the hastily assembled Australians.

Poor shooting

The Japanese, however, have only themselves to blame for not taking their chances in the first match.

With the exception of Kamamoto, they finished all their highly promising moves poorly, a flaw which cost them even more dearly on Sunday.

Having seen Kamamoto blotted out of the game in Melbourne, I am now convinced that had the same tactics been employed in the Sydney match, Australia would have won despite all their shortcomings.

These shortcomings are still obvious, Sunday's victory notwithstanding.

First and foremost, we can't match the Japanese in pure ability. Some of their players have soccer in their blood; most of ours are less gifted technically.

The Australians also don't have the understanding which comes from months of playing together like the Japanese, but this we can easily acquire if the ASF for once adopted a long-term, intelligent national team policy.

Sunday's win in Melbourne was particularly pleasing because it showed that despite their handicaps, Australian players can exploit their own particular qualities, given the proper conditions, to good advantage.

Hostile public

This current Australian team may never reach the great classical heights which sends fans into raptures, but by making the most of their particular talent and style of play they can continue to play a leading role in this part of the world while awaiting for a new generation of players capable of combining spectacular, crowd-pleasing football with the traditional, indomitable spirit which many countries can envy us.

But the Australian team must be given the opportunity to train regularly instead of dispersing for six months every year before practically starting from scratch whenever required for national duty again.

Otherwise, even the admirable spirit and elan which now allow Australia to play a leading role in Asian soccer will vanish without a trace.

Now a word on the crowds which watched Japan's first two matches.

This was particularly evident in Melbourne where the Australians were not only greeted with contempt and icy indifference, but openly abused by large sections of the crowd whose only cries of "support" throughout the match were "Go back to Sydney", "Butchers" or "Come on Japan".

Support missing

The attitude of Victorian fans, a traditionally hostile one towards Australian national sides which they claim are "stacked with Sydney 'no-hopers'", thoroughly disheartened the Australian camp.

In Sydney, at least, though a lunatic fringe saw fit to boo skipper J. Warren when he was taken off the field injured, most Australian attacks were accompanied by some sort of a roar from the crowd and our two goals warmly applauded.

Yet, the whole-hearted support every national team expects when playing at home was missing even in Sydney.

The Australian players all agreed that playing at home was no great advantage. "We received far greater support from the neutral Vietnamese in Saigon", was their unanimous verdict.

Boskovic praised

Referee Tony Boskovic won praise from the Japanese for his handling of last Sunday's match.

Boskovic left no doubt that he is well and truly our top referee, Queensland's Vince Dobinson, though quite adequate paled in comparison in the Sydney match.

Details:

LAST SATURDAY

Australia v. Japan 2-2 (0-1)

Australia: Corry; Keith, Ackerley; Schaefer, Van Alphen, Scheinflug; Vojtek, Westwater (replaced by Blue, at halftime), Warren (replaced by Blitz in 59th min.), Baartz, McColl.

Japan: Yokoyama; Katayama, Yamaguchi, Suzuki (replaced by Mori in 28th min.), Kamata, Ogi, Matsu-moto (replaced by Kimura in 60th min.), T. Miyamoto, Kamamoto, Yaegashi, Sugiyama.

Scorers: McColl 46 min., Blue 83 min. for Australia; Kamamoto 17 and 65 mins. for Japan.

Referee: V. Dobinson (Qld).

Crowd: 12,650.

LAST SUNDAY

Australia v. Japan 3-1 (2-1)

Australia: Corry; Keith, Ackerley; Westwater, Schaefer, Blue; Vojtek (replaced by McMeehan in 70th minute), Baartz, Scheinflug (replaced by Lloyd in 87th minutes), McColl, Blitz.

Japan: Funamoto; Yamaguchi, M. Miyamoto; Kami, Kawano, Tomisawa (replaced by Yaegashi in 60th minute); Kimura, Mori, Kamamoto, Kuwahara (replaced by T. Miyamoto in 75th min.), Watanabe (replaced by Sugiyama at halftime).

Scorers: Scheinflug 35 min., Vojtek 42 min., Baartz 89 min. for Australia; Kuwahara 33 min. for Japan.

Referee: A. Boskovic.

Crowd: 13,500.

After — match comments

Some of the comments after the first Australia v. Japan match were frank and interesting.

FRANK PARSONS, NSW Federation Vice-President:

"Japan's tactical skill was surprising, considering the time they have seriously played soccer."

"It was obvious that they received expert coaching over a period — and we didn't."

"Our boys, with their superior physical power, would be world beaters if they had the Japanese skill and tactical discipline."

BEN NATHAN, former NSW President:

"Japan was the better team, this cannot be disputed."

"They played a fluid, more harmonious game, very much in the European style."

JOHN WARREN, Australian captain:

"I didn't expect more from our team — but expected more from Japan."

"Frankly, I didn't think they played as well as South Korea in Saigon."

JOCK AIRD, former Scottish international and NSW star:

"Japan played a most intelligent, attractive game; their push-and-run was most effective."

"Centre-forward Kamamoto is world class."

JOE VLASITS, national team coach:

"I thought Japan played well considering that they must have been very tired after their trip from Mexico."

"Our team didn't produce more than about 50 per cent of their Asian tour form."

LAST SUNDAY

This is what they said after Australia's 3-1 victory in Melbourne last Sunday:

JOE VLASITS: "I'm the proudest man in Melbourne."

The boys were wonderful. They played to instructions. It was a grand team effort.

"We'll even do better in Adelaide now that we know what to expect of the Japanese."

"A pity that the only sour note of a great day for Australian soccer should come from the biased, unappreciative Melbourne spectators. Their hostility was sickening."

JOHN BARCLAY, Australian team manager:

"I'm ashamed to be a Victorian today."

"The crowd's behaviour towards their national team was a disgrace. In Sydney at least the vast majority was right behind us, but in

Melbourne only a handful showed their support."

"Our public still has a lot to learn."

JOHN WARREN: "The Australians were superb."

"Why the Melbourne crowd was so hostile is a mystery to me. I'm completely discouraged at the lack of support and response for the national team."

"The public's behaviour upset the Australian players. We received far greater support in Saigon."

"I'm not looking forward to our World Cup matches in Australia if that's the kind of moral and vocal support the team will get. We'd be better off playing on a neutral ground."

STAN ACKERLEY, Australian skipper for the day:

"I knew we could beat Japan after the first match."

"In Saigon we also started shakily against New Zealand, but improved as we went along."

"Captaining Australia to victory gave me my greatest soccer thrill. I shouted myself hoarse on the field."

OKANO SHUNICH-IRO, the Japanese coach:

"I expected the Australian standard of soccer to be higher."

"In Japan we rated Australia just below North Korea."

"Australia fell short of my expectations in the first match, but showed vast improvement in the second game."

"I think there's very little between our two teams. We play a different style of football, but most of our matches should always be very close."

"What I admired most about the Australians was their stamina and indomitable fighting spirit."

"I don't think your players are too vigorous. We are used to this type of soccer back home, but other Asian nations might object to Australia's British-style tackling."

"Naturally, we hope to win in Adelaide, but it won't be easy. However, we should do much better when we meet in the World Cup where I rate Japan, South Korea and Australia equal favorites."

"Neither of us, however, appear to have bright prospects of skipping the formidable North Korean hurdle."

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"Big three" should start off with win

— By PAUL DEAN —

The 1968 championship starts this weekend with all six matches played in Sydney, South Coast making their first Woonona appearance only the following week.

Two of the early favorites, St. George and Hakoah should begin with good wins but APIA's task against Yugal may be a trifle harder. The closest and most exciting match of the round may be the Pan Hellenic v. Croatia clash.

Manly v. Melita Eagles

Not a great deal has been seen of these two teams since the completion of the Ampol rounds.

Manly finished their round of duties with a totally surprising though well merited win against Prague but Melita have been unimpressive. In their gala debut at Graham Reserve, the seashiders are certain to go for broke in order to impress their locals; should their forwards click for once, they could have a pleasant start.

Melita are an unknown quantity at present; however, newcomers Duffy, Goldie, Nemet and Kovacs must have greatly added to their overall strength.

All things being equal, Melita should start the season on a high note, with a win — and ruin Manly's festive spirit.

P. Hellenic v. Croatia

These two have a great deal in common: neither is in top form and both start the year with a new coach.

Pan Hellenic, after a promising Ampol start, struck trouble and lost their goal touch.

Croatia are far from last year's full complement: the Cush brothers may not be available, Massey is sidelined, Tyrrell and Snedden are gone while Reynolds, after a lengthy dispute, is in mediocre form.

Pan Hellenic play a more attacking game while Croatia prefer to hide behind a reinforced line of defence; this seems certain to be the pattern of the match.

If Pan Hellenic regain their touch, they should not do worse than draw; if they are still in the doldrums, they could easily be outsmarted for both points.

Polonia v. Prague

Polonia, one of the most unimpressive teams in the Ampol Cup, must undergo

gigantic changes to stand a chance here.

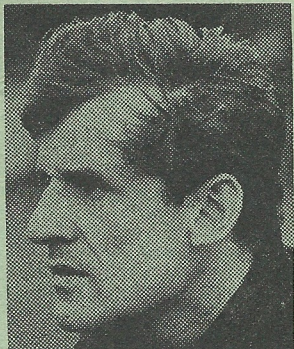
Their defence is shaky, their approach work agonisingly slow and their attack built on the dribbling ability of Krawiarz and the grafting of Minol.

authority in defence while Giacometti's scoring ability has been reduced.

Yugal have so far performed a great deal better than expected and cannot be taken too lightly.

Their pair of strikers, Alagich and Edwards, can cause a lot of headache for any defence that is caught napping, especially as they base their game on tremendously fast counter-punches.

However, APIA should come out on top particularly if some of the new amigos are really the players they are made out to be.



DREWNIAK (Polonia)

Prague, on the other hand, function as a team — the only team, in fact, which plays a 4-2-4 fairly successfully and intelligently.

Even granting the possibility that Scheinflug, their midfield genius, is tired or injured after the Japan entanglements, Prague have far too much method and skill to be in any sort of bother.

Anything but a clear-cut win by them would come as a surprise.

Yugal v. APIA

This may herald the official debut of at least some of the newly arrived Argentinians of APIA, including the very highly rated Santoro and Di Lonardi, who may entice a very fair crowd to this match.

APIA's showing in the Ampol was only so-so; they seem to have lost their

Purposefully striding towards peak form, St. George will start hot favorites at Hurstville Oval.

Even without their injured skipper, J. Warren, who will miss the start, they have far too many big guns to be embarrassed.

Swiss newcomer Durr may make his debut to add to the attraction of the day and Galambos is likely to be inaugurated at the right wing where so far two youngsters have failed to make an impression.

South Coast, despite the return of Jim Kelly and the arrival of a couple of English players, will take some time to find form.

The Saints should win and win well.

Canterbury v. Hakoah

Last year's shock Canterbury point-snatchings are most unlikely to be repeated.

Canterbury, minus Sambrook, Ninaus and Mucillo, have more than their fair share of problems; determination and spirit, while essential, don't quite compensate for lack of skill.

Hakoah, the freshly crowned Ampol Cup winners, can choose their starting team from a very impressive and sizeable squad.

Watkiss may not play yet but this shouldn't worry them too much provided either Baartz or Barnett can finally begin to find the target.

Hakoah must be expected to win rather comfortably despite Marnoch's loss.

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VITAL STATISTICS

So far 1,436 competition matches have been decided since 1957 in the NSW First Division; this week's tally will bring the total to 1,442.

Here is a statistical flashback to the teams and their records against each other:

(The numbers after the pairings indicate the wins, draws and defeats, always from the home team's angle).

Canterbury v. Hakoah 8-4-6

Last year the reconstituted but since then again struggling Canterbury handed out a shock by drawing 0-0 and winning 3-1; before that one must go back to 1961 to find a Canterbury win.

Since the decline of the great Canterbury side, Hakoah have been gaining the upper hand: since 1962 the Berries could only win one and draw three out of eight matches.

Graham Barnett will play his first competition match for Hakoah — and his 100th altogether.

Should Canterbury force a division of points, it will be Hakoah's 50th draw.

Polonia v. Prague 2-1-5

Polonia lost their last three home matches against Prague over the years and chalked up their two victories before that.

In 1961 they played a very high-scoring game, which seems out of fashion nowadays: Prague won 7-4.

Luis Gauto, Prague's little Argentinian will play his 70th match if he plays.

Pan Hellenic v. Croatia 2-3-5

Pan Hellenic have not beaten Croatia since 1964; what's worse, never did they win any of their five home matches.

In Pan Hellenic, Con Omeros is due for his 101st and Roy Blitz for his 50th competition match.

Manly v. Melita Eagles

These two have never met in any official match, not even the Ampol Cup this year as they were drawn in different groups.

St. George v. S. Coast 8-2-4

St. George have remained unbeaten since 1964; at home they have won six of their seven encounters, 1964 being the only exception.

Les Schauman, the Saints' winger, has so far scored 99 goals in First Division soccer — maybe his 100th is due.

Yugal v. APIA 4-1-7

The last two years APIA never had the slightest trouble in winning; in 1967 to the tune of 5-0 and 4-0.

However, in the 1964-65 period, Yugal had their measure, winning three out of four matches, revenging APIA's 8-1 victory in 1963.

Stan Ackerley will probably emulate Gauto's feat: he is also due for his 70th competition match with his club.

SYDNEY PROGRAM THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, April 6

Canterbury v. Hakoah — Arlington Oval
Manly v. Melita Eagles — Graham Reserve
North Sydney-Inter v. Sutherland — North Sydney Oval
Hornsby-NE v. Western Suburbs — Pennant Hills Oval
Auburn v. North Bankstown — Mona Park

Sunday, April 7

St. George v. South Coast Utd. — Hurstville Oval
Pan Hellenic v. Croatia — Wentworth Park
Polonia v. Prague — North Sydney Oval
Yugal v. APIA — Marks Field
Balgownie v. Corinthians — Balgownie Oval
Bankstown v. Granville — Bankstown Soccer Centre
Lane Cove v. Marconi — Pottery Green

NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, April 13

Melita Eagles v. Polonia-N.S. — Mona Park
Prague v. Yugal — Marks Field

Sunday, April 14

Pan Hellenic v. Manly — Wentworth Park
APIA v. St. George — Lambert Park
South Coast Utd. v. Canterbury — Woonona Oval
Croatia v. Hakoah — Marks Field
Bankstown v. Balgownie — Bankstown Soccer Centre
Western Suburbs v. Lane Cove —
Marconi v. Auburn — Marconi Oval
Granville v. North Bankstown — Macarthur Park
Corinthians v. N.S.-Inter — Jubilee Oval
Sutherland v. Hornsby-N.E. — Seymour Shaw Park

TIPSTERS' CORNER

THIS WEEKEND'S MATCHES

	PAUL DEAN	LOU GAUTIER	MARCEL NAGY	KEITH GILMOUR	CHARLES SPITERI	ALAN SPEERS	MOST FAV.
Manly v. Melita Eagles	2	x	x	x	2	x	x
St. George v. SCU	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pan Hellenic v. Croatia	x	1	1	1	1	1	1
Polonia v. Prague	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Yugal v. APIA	2	2	2	2	x	x	2
Canterbury v. Hakoah	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
NS-Inter v. Sutherland	2	2	2	2	2	x	2
Hornsby v. West. Subs.	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Auburn v. N. Bankst'n	1	1	1	1	1	x	1
Balgownie v. Corinths.	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Bankstown v. Granville	x	1	x	1	x	2	x
Lane Cove v. Marconi	2	2	x	2	x	1	2

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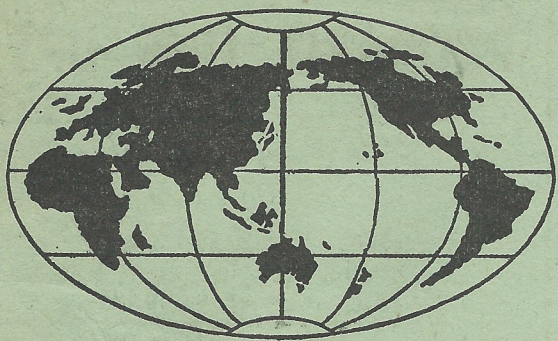
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ROUND THE WORLD

Austria or Australia?

The Austrian national team has run out of opponents. They have only been able to arrange one international — against Russia in Moscow — before the end of the season in June. France, Sweden and Switzerland cancelled their matches set down for April and May because of other, more pressing commitments. The Austrians are now left out in the cold, resulting in wide-spread press criticism, accusing the FA of incompetence. Just read Australia for Austria and France and Sweden for Napoli and Ferencvaros and you've got a striking parallel with our very own bungling ASF.

World Cup for America?

It wouldn't surprise if FIFA awarded the 1986 World Cup to one of the so-called "under-developed" soccer countries. The South American press reported last week that FIFA would be willing to experiment in 1986 by staging the finals in a country like Venezuela, the United States or Canada. Sir Stanley Rous, however, refused to comment. "We shouldn't look that far ahead," said the FIFA boss. "My sole concern at the moment is that the 1970 series in Mexico is a success."

Elek Schwartz will move

Elek Schwartz, Eintracht Frankfurt's famous coach, has now officially announced he will quit in June. Two clubs are on the ranks for this Rumanian of Hungarian origin who holds a French passport: Anderlecht of Belgium and Independiente of Buenos Aires. Schwartz is expected to choose the Argentinian club, which is reported to be willing to pay him \$25,000 a year.

Pele the "goaleador"

In 12 years Pele has scored 878 goals. In 1967 alone he scored 53, 13 more than in 1966. Pele topped the 100 goal a season mark in 1959 (125), 1961 (107) and 1965 (105). His tally for Brazil stands at 57 goals. Pele's target is 1,500 goals before he hangs up his boots.

Greeks show the way

The Greeks have embarked at last on a firm, progressive national team policy. National coach Petropoulos has been summoned by the Greek FA to select 30 players who will assemble every Wednesday and Thursday for the next eight months. All Greece is hoping that the move will pay off in their World Cup qualifying group where they have to meet Portugal, Rumania and Switzerland. Meanwhile back in Australia...

Asian All-Stars

The Asian All-Stars, a selection of the best non-communist Asian players, will play against Thailand, South Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Japan and South Korea during the month of June. Dettmar Cramer will coach the Asian stars throughout their 25-day tour. Four of the Japanese players now in Australia are members of the All-Stars: Katayama, Kamamoto, Ogi and Sugiyama.



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A total of 68,000 spectators watched the nine opening matches of the new North American Soccer League. The biggest crowd was at Oakland for the Oakland Clippers v. Boston match — 9,664 spectators. The San Diego v. Kansas City game attracted the smallest attendance — 3,018 spectators.

● Hong Kong's national team has been invited to play three matches in Cambodia next month.

● Celtic will be paid \$14,000 for each of their three matches in the USA in June. The Scots will also play twice in Mexico, for \$10,000 a match.

● Quevilly, an amateur club, and Second Division Angouleme have reached the semifinals of the French Cup. St. Etienne are hot favorites to add the Cup to their championship win.

● Saarbrücken's three clubs, FC Saarbrücken, Saar 05 and Sportfreunde will merge into one club capable of challenging for Bundesliga status within two seasons.

● Stojaspal, one of Austria's greatest-ever forwards, is now coaching an obscure amateur Swiss team, Monthey.

● Barcelona's coach, Salvador Artigas, was involved in a car accident on the way back from Benidorm. He escaped serious injury but his wife suffered multiple lacerations and is now in hospital.

● Burma beat the Russian junior national team 2-0 in Rangoon last week.

● The third Alpine Cup will feature Cagliari, Fiorentina, Juventus and Roma of Italy; Frankfurt, the holders, Kaiserslautern, FC Köln and Schalke 04 (West Germany) and the Swiss quartet of Basel, Grasshoppers, Servette and Young Boys.

● Flamengo (Rio) have signed the top Uruguayan defender, Manicera. Another leading Rio club, Bangu, have bought the erstwhile ace Argentinian centre-forward, Sanfilippo.

● Lazio's home ground has been "suspended" for three games. The Second Division Roman team will play their next three home fixtures behind locked gates, with no spectators. The stiff penalty was imposed after Lazio fans bombarded the pitch with bottles in a recent game against Livorno.

● Alfredo Di Stefano is prospecting in Argentina. He has been in his native Buenos Aires since March 19 and it is rumored he may join Huracan, for whom he played in his early days.

● Santos halfback Lima has joined the Argentinian club Boca Juniors.

● The Moroccan Army XI beat their French counterparts 1-0 in an international military championship match in Casablanca last week.

● The deciding European Cupwinners' Cup quarterfinal between Torpedo Moscow and Cardiff City was played at Augsburg, West Germany, last Wednesday, April 3. Both teams won 1-0 at home.

● Chile and Colombia qualified for the Olympic finals by topping their South American Olympic qualifying groups.

● Olaria of Brazil have cancelled their proposed Asian tour in June because none of the Asian Federations were willing to meet their stiff terms of \$8,000 per match plus expenses.

● Some South American Champions' Cup results: Penarol Montevideo (Uruguay) v. Deportivo Portugues (Venezuela) 3-0; Cristal Lima (Peru) v. Emelec Guayaquil (Ecuador) 2-0; Guarani (Paraguay) v. Universidad Catolica (Chile) 3-0; Independiente (Argentina) v. Universitario (Peru) 3-0; Palmeiras (Brazil) v. Universidad Catolica (Chile) 4-1.

● Nineteen spectators were injured — seven seriously — when a stand collapsed during the recent Spartak Trnava v. Slovan Bratislava competition match in Czechoslovakia.

● The Russian national team beat the French First Division side, Rennes, 3-0 in France last week.

● Real Madrid and Manchester United meet in the European Cup semifinals on April 24 at Old Trafford and on May 15 in Madrid.

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Yugoslav FA gets tough

The Yugoslav FA introduced a new rule last month to halt the mass exodus of star players abroad. No player under the age of 27 can now transfer to a foreign club. The Yugoslav FA will also have to be paid 15 per cent of any transfer fee as from now. The FA also decided never to include foreign-based players in the national side.

Intercontinental Junior Championship

Teofilo Salinas, president of the South American Confederation wants to organise an intercontinental series for junior national teams. Salinas will have talks with UEFA president Gustav Wiederkehr soon. Salinas' plan calls for the South American junior champion to play a home-and-away tie against the winner of the European Junior Championship.

SCOREBOARD

OLYMPIC QUALIFYING MATCH: Spain v. Great Britain 1-0.

FAIR CITIES' CUP: Ferencvaros (Hungary) v. Atletico Bilbao (Spain) 2-1 (Ferencvaros qualified for semifinals with 4-2 aggregate); Leeds v. Rangers 0-0 (first leg).

GREECE: AEK v. Olympiakos 2-1, Apollon v. Panseirakos 3-0, Aris v. Egaleo 3-2, Veria v. Iraklis 2-1, Ethnikos v. Panathinaikos 0-0, Olympiakos v. Volos v. Panelethinaikos 4-1, Panionios v. Pierikos 3-0, Olympiakos Cyprus v. PAOK 0-0. **Table:** AEK 64; Olympiakos and Aris 60; Panathinaikos 59; Ethnikos 58.

YUGOSLAVIA: Red Star v. Zeljeznicar 2-1, Velez v. Vojvodina 2-0, Olimpja v. Hajduk 0-0, Vardar v. Rijeka 1-0, Proleter v. Radnicki 1-0, Zagreb v. Sarajevo 4-0, OFK Belgrade v. Dinamo Zagreb 1-0, Partizan Belgrade v. Maribor 4-1. **Table:** Partizan 27, Red Star 25; Zeljeznicar 24; Vardar, Dinamo Zagreb 20.

FRANCE (Cup quarterfinals): St. Etienne v. Metz 1-0, Bordeaux v. Strasbourg 1-1, Angouleme v. Sochaux 2-1, Quevilly v. Dunkirk 4-0.

PORTUGAL: Sporting v. Porto 1-0, Benfica v. Tirsense 5-0, Belenenses v. Braga 2-0, Setubal v. Leixoes 7-1, Academica v. Varzim 3-2, Sanjoanense v. Guimaraes 1-0, Barreirense v. CUF 3-2.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Slovan Bratislava v. Ostrava 2-0, Slavia v. Trnava 0-1, Dukla v. Lokomotiva 0-0, Kosice v. Zilina 3-0, Plzen v. Inter Bratislava 1-2, Trencin v. Sparta 3-0, Teplice v. Bohemians 2-0. **Table:** Inter, Trencin 20; Trnava, Slovan 18; Kosice 16; Dukla, Lokomotiva 15.

ITALY: Fiorentina v. Sampdoria 0-0, Vicenza v. Atalanta 4-1, Juventus v. Napoli 2-1, Milan AC v. Brescia 1-0, Roma v. Mantova 2-2, Spal v. Cagliari 1-0, Inter Milan v. Torino 3-2, Varese v. Bologna 0-0. **Table:** Milan AC 40; Inter Milan, Varese 31; Torino, Napoli 30; Fiorentina 29.

SWITZERLAND: Basel v. Lugano 1-1, Bellinzona v. Biel 2-2, Grasshoppers v. Lausanne 5-2, Sion v. Grenchen 2-0, Lucerne v. Young Fellows 4-2, Zurich v. Servette Geneva 3-2, Young Boys Berne v. Chaux-de-Fonds 3-2. **Table:** Lugano 25; Grasshoppers 24; Basel 23; FC Zurich 22.

POLAND: Gornik v. Zaglebie 1-2, Polonia v. Gwardia

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VIC. FANS HAVE EARNED BETTER DEAL ALL-ROUND

— From BOB LOW in Melbourne —

The "true blue" fan who has supported soccer in its round-the-clock activities over almost a full year comes into his own this weekend when the 1968 State League season kicks off.

Make no mistake about it: the fanatics of soccer — and by that I mean those supporters who have stood on the terraces week after week since the end of the official 1967 season, paying through the nose to watch a conglomeration of matches which have in the main been third rate — are all agog, ready to pass through the turnstiles for the opening of the 1968 State League season.

However, I must warn the VSF and their Board of Management who control the game in this State that unless a vast improvement is shown in the standard of the game, the declining crowds will diminish to a greater extent and place the future of the game in jeopardy.

So it's up to the club officials to really bring it home to the players that 1968 is a crucial year.

The VSF and their Board of Management who have made a worthwhile contribution towards the progress of the game since they replaced the defunct VASFA don't like or appreciate constructive criticism.

They have proved this time and time again through a few of their leading officials who seem to be more intent in trying to rubbish the Press instead of taking stock of themselves and making some real endeavour to rectify the mistakes which they repeat over and over again.

Few, if any, soccer writers or reporters get any satisfaction from pin-pointing flaws and weaknesses of any organisation and its administration.

On the contrary, everyone will praise efficiency and even hush up first-time mistakes which arise from the element of human error.

The VSF are the men in command and authority and so must be respected.

Still, let's hope in 1968 they have a change of heart and realise their shortcomings to place the code on a better footing than its ever been on before.

Now, for a look at the opening games and the prospects of the clubs, and first the fixtures for the opening round:

Saturday: Croatia v. Slavonia at Olympic Park, Hakoah v. Alexander at Middle Park, Polonia v. Lions at Maribyrnong.

Sunday: Melbourne v. JUST at St. Kilda, George Cross v. SM Hellas at Olympic Park, Wilhelmina v. Juventus at Middle Park.

CROATIA v. SLAVIA

Seeking revenge for the Ampol Cup final defeat, Slavia may find it tough but certainly not beyond them.

Slavia are no longer a side which is slow to warm up as was shown in the night soccer when they knocked off JUST, Mel-

bourne and Hakoah and only lost one goal before going under to Croatia.

On the other hand, Croatia went one better and only JUST who divided the points stood between them and a 100 per cent unbeaten record in the Ampol Cup.

With more experience and a decided superiority in the midfield, I fancy Slavia to win.

HAKOAH v. ALEXANDER

If Hakoah show some real sense of urgency instead of complacency which they are capable of producing then they should tuck the two points away.

I can't see anything else but a win for Hakoah providing of course the Middle Park side go flat out for the whole match.

POLONIA v. LIONS

Polonia, without the form which made them "kingpins" in the early 60's, are a much more skilful and polished combination than Lions.

Still, in fighting spirit and guts, the Essendon side must be admired: they never give up, seldom make excuses for defeat and with an ounce of luck could quite often win or share the points instead of losing them both.

MELBOURNE v. JUST

After a sorry show in the night soccer Melbourne, the number one side in Australia in 1967, have come to grips with themselves in recent weeks and in a tough series of "friendlies" have shown they are on the way back.

And this despite the fact that ace Ottie Abonyi is finding it tough after his fantastic success in Saigon and the subsequent publicity on rumors of a transfer.

JUST, despite selling Micic to Hellas, have a formidable line-up strengthened by the signing of Barbazza and if centre-forward Hughes gets the right support he could almost win the game single-handed for them.

GEORGE CROSS v. SM HELLAS

In the past, even with a below-par side, George Cross have always made Hellas fight hard to share even a division of points: this game should be no exception.

On paper the Cross have as much talent on their books as any other side but in the art of teamwork and as a combination they fall short of Hellas.

Still, they are likely to give a good account of themselves and once again I fancy them to share the points.

WILHELMINA v. JUVENTUS

If Wilhelmina can finish on the winning side in their first competitive game since coming back to the State League, then obviously they are once again to become a real force in top circles.

Both sides have some weaknesses in defence and both have plenty of potential striking power in attack, so this could be a game where the score could be high.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Melbourne: Bob Connelly a 23-year-old wing-half who was on Liverpool's books and played for St. Johnstone.

Juventus: David Epifano a product of the local juniors and an up-and-coming left-winger.

Croatia: Mike Kovacek, the 22-year-old goalie and another local product who is fast reaching the top bracket.

SM Hellas: David Kelly, a fullback bought for a bargain price from Slavia two years ago.

JUST: Tony Kazi, a right-winger, product of the JUST juniors and a goal-scorer.

Hakoah: Sandy Henderson, new keeper from Brechin City who could displace Mike O'Hara.

Slavia: Alan Reed, a former Tottenham Hotspur youth and reserve player. A defender.

George Cross: Barry Horsfall, a forward sure to figure among the goals.

Polonia: Kaz Kowalec, an experienced forward who has played for Victoria. Now player-coach.

Clean-out in S. A. squad

— From ALLAN CRISP —

Only dedicated players, willing to make personal sacrifices, will be asked to wear the green and white shirt of South Australia.

This point was made abundantly clear by SA team manager Adrian Deckers and SA coach, Edmund Kreft last Sunday.

"Some of the regular SA players and even a couple of the young squad members have shown a disturbing lack of interest towards training sessions," explained Deckers.

After conferring with Edmund Kreft, selectors Adrian Deckers and Alex Hastings, cut the squad to 16 for the match against Victoria on Anzac Day.

Australian international, Ted De Lyster, who toured Asia last November, was axed along with WA Hellas captain and team mate, Peter Worthington.

USC Lion goalkeeper Wally Fedczyszyn withdrew from the squad because he could not get time off to train.

Original squad members Willy Slager (Croatia), John Lovell (USC Lion), Elio Marusic (Hellas) were not considered because of injury.

Under-23 Australian international, John Perin (Juventus) who last week withdrew from the Australian squad to play Japan because of a knee injury surprisingly played in Sunday's trial and was chosen in the SA squad.

Pleasing features of the final selection were the choice of Peter Tsitsos (Hellas) to replace Fedczyszyn and the retention of youngsters Henry Kolecki, (Polonia) and Mitia Marusic (Beograd).

Coach Kreft said he would like to play two more trial games with the final trial on Monday April 21.

The squad for the return fixture against Victoria is: Jim Mill, Nilo Rusalen, Peter West, John Perin, Giovanni Meneghetti, Steve Herczeg (Juventus), Peter Tsitsos, Nick Pantelis, Billy Birch (WA Hellas), Roger Romanowicz, Eugene Nowak, Cyril Heppenstall, Henry Kolecki, Marian Kolecki, Henry Manka (Polonia) and Mitia Marusic (Beograd).

Aust. Cup tie set down for Monday

— From ALLAN CRISP in Adelaide —

The SA Federation has fixed Monday, April 8 at Hindmarsh as the date and venue for the Juventus v. Beograd Australia Cup elimination game.

Beograd coach Peter Jaksa was outspoken last week because the tie had been delayed so long.

Faced with training problems because three of his players were in the State squad, Jaksa said, "If necessary, Beograd will play Juventus at midnight on the top of Mount Lofty because we are anxious to get this match over."

Juventus, with six players in the SA squad, had a bigger problem than Beograd.

Jaksa's eagerness to stage the game quickly was doubtless motivated by the fact that Beograd defeated Ju-

ventus when they met in the Ampol minor round.

Beograd, headed by their bright youngsters, Mitia Marusic, John Besir, John Travar and Ivan Batusic and backed by the experience of Rab Jones, Charlie Horvath and Roy Parsons, are quite capable of again downing Juventus.

It should be remembered, however, that Juventus were without Steve Herczeg and Manuel Cruz when they lost 1-2 last time.

With John Perin back in training and Herczeg and Cruz again fit, Juventus are my choice to win and qualify as SA's No. 1 Australia Cup representative.

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SYDNEY SECOND DIVISION

BANKSTOWN-GRANVILLE FIRST ROUND HIGHLIGHT

— By CHARLES SPITERI —

The 1968 Second Division competition gets under way on Saturday one week late after the postponement of the first round scheduled for last weekend due to the Australia v. Japan international last Saturday.

The 12 teams competing will play their second round matches as scheduled in the draw.

Most interesting match of the week is the clash between two First Division aspirants Bankstown United and Granville at the Bankstown Soccer Centre.

This is the first competition match to be played at the centre and to mark the occasion, United have invited the Mayor of Bankstown, Alderman D. Carruthers, to kick-off.

After the match he will be the guest of Bankstown Soccer Club Ltd. and he will address the players and supporters.

Bankstown lost all their trial matches in the pre-season against First Division teams — but only narrowly, and are a very confident side.

Ron Hewitt, the Welsh international inside-forward, may make his reappearance on the Sydney soccer

scene in this match which could add punch to the already balanced United attack.

Granville are an unknown quantity at this stage and are most likely to field many young players.

These will be blended by a few experienced players from last year.

Traditionally, these sides play their best football when they meet, and if there is to be a winner, Bankstown hold a slight edge, but the most likely result is a draw.

Auburn, playing their first game in Second Division, should have an easy game against North Bankstown at Mona Park on Saturday while Western Suburbs should beat Hornsby-North End.

Sutherland should beat North Sydney-Inter at North Sydney Oval on Saturday and Balgownie, with home ground advantage,

should win against Corinthians on Sunday.

After some impressive trials, Lane Cove are expected to give Marconi a hard fight at Pottery Green, with a draw the likely outcome.

READERS' LETTERS

In accord

Paul Dean is to be complimented for the exposure on the ASF, presented, as it is, in forceful language but without departing for one second from hard facts, which are indisputable.

I have disagreed, most emphatically, on quite a few opinions appearing in "Soccer World" from time to time but apart from the suggestion of "imported administrators" contained in the article in question, I am in complete accord.

Reading the article for the third time I could not help but recall that the sentiments expressed therein are almost identical with those used by delegates to the conference held in Newcastle in 1957 which killed the old Association and gave birth to the Federation.

I hope and pray that we can achieve what we fought for in those years without another upheaval but, as Mr. Dean says, this can only be possible by club officials becoming soccer conscious instead of just club conscious.

Jim Pratt,
Auburn.

Get Cramer

After reading your enlightening articles on Dettmar Cramer last week I feel that the Australian Federation should immediately approach him to become coach of Australia when he has fulfilled his commitments in Asia.

His ideas are not unlike many of the suggestions your paper has made in the past, but surely they could now be put into practice.

He should be given a free hand to run Australia's soccer affairs as he wishes.

It is obvious that soccer in this country is on its own.

This was typified by the total lack of publicity for the Japan v. Australia match at the Sportsground.

The publicity which Rugby receives nowadays is so great that Sydney will soon become a Melbourne if soccer officials don't take firm steps to stop this from happening.

A man like Cramer is just the tonic we need to change the trend and to completely revolutionise Australian soccer.

Roger Sleeman,
Cronulla.

As we foretold...

Unfortunately, most of our bad premonitions come true.

Last Saturday night, after the first match against Japan, the selectors hurriedly added Hammy McMeekhan to the Australian squad and team for next day's match.

They simply had to; Marnoch, Keith, Van Alphen and Warren were injured, reducing the number of fit players to a meagre 12 with two games to go.

Earlier in the piece it was firmly stated that "there will be no late additions to the squad" and "only those can play for Australia who are in the original squad."

This panic move may have surprised the ASF — but not us.

On March 15, Paul Dean wrote:

"The ASF sub-committee opted for 16 players... this spells considerable danger in case of injuries or declines in form..."

"We wouldn't be surprised to see a repetition of past happenings when a player or two was added to a carefully selected and prepared squad almost on the day of the match."

Naturally, it happened. Most people just about expected it; we predicted it.

But the ASF sub-committee of three, which is entrusted with these details, was once again caught napping.

Terry san?

The ASF's official Japan tour programme, edited by Terry Smith, had precious little information about Japanese soccer or sport in general.

None, you could say, save for the official handout. In the "pen portraits" the editor didn't even bother to rewrite the Japanese-English dispatched from Tokyo and you could read such gems as:

"Funamoto... has a strong body and plenty of courage..."

"Miyamoto... has a reputation for the liking to figure in an attacking raid..."

"Yamaguchi... small but quick in his reactions..."

Okay, so the Japanese can't write perfect English. But a locally bred journalist?

— Charles Spiteri

WITH THE AMATEURS

Lidcombe rallies for splendid win

— By KEITH GILMOUR —

The Sydney Amateurs got off to a good start last Sunday, playing part of their first round in glorious sunshine.

At Coleman Park, Blacktown appeared to have their match against Lidcombe wrapped up with 20 minutes to go, and a 3-1 lead.

The rot set in when Blacktown's goalkeeper and centre-half collided, and conceded a goal.

Blacktown played the offside without the referee's agreement and enabled Lidcombe to even the score, with Lidcombe finishing on a strong note with a 5-3 win.

Blacktown secretary Dick Lincoln believes that the club will strengthen up considerably in the next week or two, and predicts an excellent season.

Next Sunday Blacktown will play Belmore at Francis Park.

ROUSING DRAW

This should give a real clue to the prospects of both clubs for 1968, as Belmore suffered some reverses in trials, and will be fighting to prove themselves back in First Division.

Marrickville and Artarmon both gave an excellent viewing of their premiership prospects in a rousing 2-2 draw at Mackay Park.

The goals came in sea-saw fashion.

Marrickville led at 1-0, Artarmon drew level, Marrickville led 2-1, and the final score was a real reflection of play.

Yagoona had no ground available last week, and their game against Arncliffe Scots was deferred.

Arncliffe will get the chance to match — test their 4-3-3 formation when they play Gympie North End at new Grays Point ground next week.

Rovers had a Division III 5-1 win over Revesby at Loftus Park, thus giving the former Sutherland Association club a happy start in Inter-Suburban football.

Rovers' forwards Brian Jeffs and Ben Wuyts were always to the fore, and former Gympie player Les Haslehurst was sound in goal.

Revesby's only goal came when Rovers led 4-0, and the latter netted in their own goal.

Gladesville - Hornsby gained a 4-2 win against Smithfield at Boronia Park, Epping, in an interesting game.

Smithfield scored before Gladesville settled to the job, but lost their advantage by off-side play.

Gladesville - Hornsby gained some promising players from Beecroft's under-18 side of 1967, and should be a side to watch this season.

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LAST WEEK'S RESULTS & TABLES

First Division

Belmore v. Ryde	1-1	6-0
Lidcombe v. Blacktown	5-3	1-5
Uni. NSW v. S. Sydney	0-1	2-4
Concordia v. Wentworth	1-2	0-5
Marrickville v. Artarmon	2-2	0-1

Second Division

St. Marys v. Kewpies	3-4	0-2
Auburn v. Riverside	0-4	0-5
Arncliffe v. Yagoona	postoned	
Warringah v. Gympie	5-0	3-1
Guildford v. Penrith	5-2	9-1

Third Division

Gladesville v. Smithfield	4-2	4-1
All Stars v. Dee Why	3-2	0-3
Rovers v. Revesby	5-1	1-3
Condell Pk. v. West Ryde	3-2	3-1

FIRST DIVISION

	W	D	L	F	A	P
St. Marys	1	—	—	1	0	2
Wentworth	1	—	—	2	1	2
Lidcombe	1	—	—	5	3	2
Belmore	—	1	—	1	1	1
Ryde	—	1	—	1	1	1
Marrickville	—	1	—	2	2	1
Artarmon	—	1	—	2	2	1
Blacktown	—	1	—	3	5	—
Concordia	—	—	1	1	2	—
Uni. NSW	—	—	1	0	1	—

SECOND DIVISION

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Warringah	1	—	—	5	0	2
Riverside	1	—	—	4	0	2
Guildford	1	—	—	5	2	2
Kewpies	1	—	—	4	3	2
St. Marys	—	1	—	3	4	—
Penrith	—	1	—	2	5	—
Auburn	—	—	1	0	4	—
Gympie	—	—	1	0	5	—

THIRD DIVISION

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Rovers	1	—	—	5	1	2
Gladesville	1	—	—	4	2	2
All Stars	1	—	—	3	2	2
Condell Park	1	—	—	3	2	2
West Ryde	—	1	—	2	3	—
Dee Why	—	—	1	2	3	—
Smithfield	—	—	1	2	4	—
Revesby	—	—	1	1	5	—

THIS WEEKEND'S AMATEUR DRAW

Saturday, April 6

First Division: South Sydney v. Lidcombe — Booralee; East Side-MTK v. Concordia — Moore Park; Artarmon v. Thistle — Artarmon Park.

Second Division: Yagoona v. Auburn Juniors — Bankstown.

Third Division: Dee Why v. Gladesville-Hornsby — Dee Why Oval.

Fourth Division: Liverpool Eagles v. Maroubra — Woodward Park; Newtown v. Central United — Outer Wentworth Park.

Sunday, April 7

First Division: Blacktown v. Belmore — Francis Park; Ryde v. Marrickville — Hall Field; NSW Uni. v. Wentworth — D. Phillips Oval.

Second Division: Riverside v. St. Marys — Mahoney Park; Kewpies v. Guildford — Colquhoun Park; Gympie North End v. Arncliffe Scots — Grays Point; Enmore v. Warringah Saints — Mackay Park; Penrith v. Sydney Uni. — Jamison Park.

Third Division: Smithfield v. Condell Park — Smithfield Park; Revesby Workers v. All Stars — Amour Park; Greenacre v. Rovers — Allum Park; West Ryde v. Fairfield — Meadowbank Oval No. 3.

Fourth Division: Chelsea v. Prospect — Moore Park; Beverley Hills v. Ku-Ring-Gai — Beverley Hills Park; Campbelltown v. Padstow Park — Campbelltown Show Ground.

Inter on the outer

Could a Second Division club — or any club for that matter in the higher sphere of Sydney soccer — survive in that company when it doesn't even possess an enclosed ground?

This is the dilemma newly promoted North Sydney Inter is facing with the competition only two days from kick-off.

Through no fault of club officials who have tried and are still negotiating with the local council for some satisfactory arrangement, this situation reflects the seriousness of ground shortage in Sydney.

Founded in North Sydney in 1964, club officials hopefully tendered to secure the rights for North Sydney Oval which brought them in direct opposition to First Division Polonia-Northside, who earlier had lost the rights for Drummoyne Oval.

NEGOTIATIONS

With Polonia out of Drummoyne Oval, Inter's chances were slim from the very beginning and eventually were refused permission in favor of their First Division counterparts.

Now the club is negotiating with North Sydney Council to enclose part of Cammeray Park at Crows Nest but this also requires the approval of the Minister for Local Government, and if the past is any guide, this could easily develop into a long wait.

The result is, that if the club is to collect the much needed revenue from its home matches, it must con-

tinually shift fixtures to "foreign" grounds, most probably outside its district.

This whole business may have arisen from the fact that North Sydney Inter had graduated too rapidly and time was too short for the club to establish itself and make an impact on the area. (Inter, however, have managed to secure North Sydney Oval for this weekend. Ed.)

The club competed in the Third Division Inter-Suburban Amateurs in 1965 winning the premiership with a great performance, not losing one single point during the season.

Automatically promoted to Second Division, Inter-Suburban Amateurs, the club finished third in 1966 behind Marrickville and Ryde.

With the enlarging in number of each Division, North Sydney Inter was promoted to the First Division Amateurs in 1967.

It won the premiership losing only three games and beat Artarmon in the play-off Grand Final 3-1.

Now promoted to Second Division, tireless club officials are sparing no efforts to strengthen the club's ranks.

However, the club lost some of last year's players who have been replaced by young ones recruited from the district.



FLOTTA LAURO